

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----128639 121432Z /43

R 121300Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 0060

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, BU, TU, YO
SUBJECT: BULAGRIAN/TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: A) ANKARA 0143 (NOTAL); B) 77 SOFIA 2553

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT A DELEGATION HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM ANKARA TO DISCUSS WITH THE BULGARIANS ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION OF THE TURKISH CONSULATES GENERAL IN PLOVDIV AND BURGAS. HE STATED THAT ANOTHER DELEGATION WOULD BE ARRIVING NEXT WEEK TO NEGOTIATE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT FOR BULGARIAN PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY TO TURKEY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUERY, TURKISH AMBASSADOR
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CLAIMED THAT EARLY JANUARY CUTOFF OF ELECTRICITY WAS CAUSED BY A TECHNICAL PROBLEM, APPARENTLY A GENERATOR FAILURE (REF A). HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE BULGARIANS HAD WANTED TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT ON ELECTRICITY FOR ONLY ONE YEAR, BUT HAD FINALLY AGREED ON RENEWAL FOR TWO YEARS (1978-79), ALTHOUGH AT A HIGHER PRICE. THE TURKS HAD ARGUED THAT A PRICE INCREASE WOULD BE UNFAIR,

AND WOULD EXCEED THE CHARGE MADE BY THE RUSSIANS FOR ELECTRICITY SOLD TO TURKEY FROM THE CAUCUSES, AND BE MORE THAN THE BULGARIANS PAY FOR ELECTRICITY IMPORTED FROM THE USSR, BUT THE BULGARIANS KNOW THEY HAVE STRONG BARGAINING LEVERAGE AND ARE USING IT. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE TURKS PAY IN DOLLARS.

3. THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE PROBLEM OF SMUGGLING FROM BULGARIA HAD BECOME WORSE. THE TURKS HAD FOUND THAT ARMS SEIZED FROM TERRORISTS IN TURKEY MADE IN ARGENTINA AND SPAIN HAD SERIAL NUMBERS WHICH THOSE GOVERNMENTS SAID WERE FROM SHIPMENTS SOLD TO BULGARIA. HE SAID THAT THE TURKS HAVE COMPLAINED TO THE BULGARIANS AND HAVE BEGUN MORE EXTENSIVE CHECKING OF TRUCK CARGOES -- WHICH HAS REVEALED WIDESPREAD SMUGGLING OF OTHER THINGS AS WELL. COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN LODGED WITH THE BULGARIANS.

4. AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENT AT A DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE YUGOSLAV AND TURKISH AMBASSADORS HERE (APPARENTLY THEIR FIRST REAL CONVERSATION IN AT LEAST TWO MONTHS) IN WHICH THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR CHIDED HIS TURKISH COLLEAGUE ON THE SUBJECT OF A BALKAN CONFERENCE (REF B). HE SAID THE TURKS HAD LET THE BULGARIANS OFF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 0060

THE HOOK ON THEIR OPPOSITION TO A MULTILATERAL BALKAN MEETING, AND CITED MINCHEV (ALONG LINES CITED IN REFTEL B). THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT ACCURATE, AND THAT TURKEY CONTINUED TO FAVOR BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL BALKAN COOPERATION, BUT HE APPEARED EMBARRASSED. THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA SUPPLIED ELECTRICITY TO BULGARIA, AND THERE COULD BE ADVANTAGE IN DISCUSSING SUCH MATTERS MULTILATERALLY.

5. COMMENT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR DID NOT ATTRIBUTE BULGARIAN LEVERAGE ON ELECTRICITY TO ANYTHING BUT HIGHER PRICING, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NO RELIABLE INDICATION THAT IT MAY NOT HAVE A BROADER APPLICATION. HE DID NOT
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MENTION MINCHEV VISIT IN CONNECTION WITH TALKS ON ELECTRICITY, AND THER SEEMED TO BE A LARGE NUMBER OF RECENT BILATERAL CONTACTS (SEE REFTEL B), BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE THE FORUM IN WHICH ELECTRICITY TALKS TO DATE (FOR EXAMPLE, LEADING TO RELUCTANT BULGARIAN ACCEPTANCE OF TWO YEAR AGREEMENT) HAD OCCURED.
GARTHOFF

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